

In re: Black, Jr.
Appl. No.: 09/446,402
Filed: December 20, 1999
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A4
CM-4

a second strand bound to the flanking sequence, wherein said second strand comprises a polynucleotide corresponding to said first strand and to a target molecule.

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3. (Amended) The cassette of claim ¹ 16, wherein said protein of interest ^{is} comprises a toxin.

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4. (Amended) The cassette of claim ¹ 16, wherein said target is unique to neoplastic cells.

AS

5. (Amended) A method for inhibiting the growth of neoplastic cells, said method comprising contacting said cells with a masked expression cassette comprising a double stranded nucleic acid molecule:

wherein a first strand comprises an RNA sequence which codes for a protein of interest linked downstream of a flanking sequence, and a translation initiation site operably inserted upstream of the RNA sequence; and,

a second strand bound to the flanking sequence, wherein said second strand comprises a polynucleotide corresponding to said first strand and to a target molecule.

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10. (Amended) A method for controlling the expression of a protein of interest in the presence of a target molecule, said method comprising contacting a cell comprising the target molecule with a masked expression cassette comprising a double stranded nucleic acid molecule, wherein a first strand comprises an RNA sequence which codes for a protein of interest linked downstream of a flanking sequence, and a translation initiation site operably inserted upstream of the RNA sequence; and

a second strand bound to the flanking sequence wherein said second strand comprises a polynucleotide corresponding to said first strand and to the target molecule.